

February 29, 1996 LB 1322

Wesely. (Read title.) The committee amendments offered by Health and Human Services Committee were considered. When the Legislature adjourned for the day Senator Maurstad had pending amendment FA468, that you will find on Journal page 976, as an amendment to the committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Maurstad, would you just very briefly, in a couple of minutes maybe, reinform the membership as to what your amendment does?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President. The floor amendment that we are discussing right now amends the committee amendment to strike on the committee amendment, on page 1 of the committee amendment, lines 2 through 24, and on page 2, strikes lines 1 through 10 and insert in its place, strike original Section 10. So the intent and the discussion that we were having when we adjourned yesterday dealt with the merits of Section 10 and the creation of the Housing Code Task Force.

SENATOR CROSBY PRESIDING

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Discussion on the Maurstad amendment. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Madam President, members, I oppose the Maurstad amendment. I ask you to oppose it as well. We discussed this briefly yesterday. Let me reiterate once again, all we are asking for is a review of the issues affecting the cost of housing in the state of Nebraska. We are asking that a task force be formed that will provide for us some recommendations by December of next year. Nothing is final with this product, with this proposal. We'll have to come back to the Legislature for any further action, but the idea is that there have been longstanding concerns about additional cost being placed on those who are trying to provide affordable housing, and is there a way that we can accommodate those concerns in a constructive fashion. I see nothing wrong with trying to attempt to find answers to those questions. We have been aware of, over the years, various concerns that have been expressed. What we have currently in the state of Nebraska are a number of agencies involved with the regulation in housing. You've got an electrical board. You've got the Health Department involved. You've got some of the different code agencies that are involved at the state level. You've got the